

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-02

COME-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 INT-08 OMB-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 ACDA-19 /239 W

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O R 221234Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7734

INFO USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 7145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, FR, EEC

SUBJECT: JOBERT STATEMENT ON EUROPEAN-ARAB RELATIONS

AND SPECIAL UNGA

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1. TEXT OF AN AFP ITEM DATELINED ALGIERS, MARCH 22,

GIVING FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT'S VIEWS ON EUROPEAN-ARAB RELATIONS AND THE SPECIAL UNGA FOLLOWS:

"IN TREATING EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DIFFERENTLY IN PETROLEUM MATTERS, THE ARAB COUNTRIES HARDLY FACILITATE A 'COMMON ACTION' OF EUROPE IN FAVOR OF COOPERATION WITH THE ARAB WORLD", DECLARED MR. MICHEL JOBERT, FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED THURSDAY BY THE ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE.

FOR THE FRENCH MINISTER, WHO IS EXPECTED FRIDAY MORNING IN ALGIERS, "THE DISPOSITIONS WHICH WERE RECENTLY MADE IN PETROLEUM MATTERS PROBABLY SURPRISED A LITTLE NOT ONLY THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, BUT ALSO ALL OF THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE". IF ONE WISHES A DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES, MR. JOBERT ADDED, ONE MUST NOT BEGIN BY DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: "THAT IS A POSSIBLE ATTITUDE, BUT I MUST SAY THAT IT IS NOT APT TO FACILITATE COMMON ACTION IN THIS DOMAIN..., (ACTION) TOWARD THIS DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH ARAB COUNTRIES."

2. EITHER THE ARAB COUNTRIES COUNT ON EUROPE AND WISH TO HELP EUROPE, "WHICH NEEDS TO REINFORCE ITS COHESION", AND THUS MUST TAKE IT (THIS NEED FOR COHESION) INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING THEIR DECISION "OR ELSE EUROPE IS SOMEHOW INDIFFERENT TO THEM PARTICULARLY IN COMPARISON TO THE UNITED STATES. AT THAT MOMENT THE DECISIONS TAKEN RISK BEING MISINTERPRETED", ADDED THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. HE EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT THE FUTURE ALLOW TO BE CORRECTED WHAT, IN HIS VIEW, IS "STILL IMPERFECT IN THE DECISIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN OR MAINTAINED".

4. CONCERNING THE PLAN FOR A EUROPEAN-ARAB CONFERENCE, MR. JOBERT SAID THAT IT IS UP TO THE PRESENT PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, MR. WALTER SCHEEL, TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND "TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SEE IF IT IS POSSIBLE, AS WE HAVE WISHED, FOR A SINGLE INTERLOCUTOR OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES TO DEAL WITH A SINGLE INTERLOCUTOR OF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES". AFTER, HE NOTED, "WE WILL SEE HOW TO DIVERSIFY, TO MULTIPLY THE DIALOGUE, SINCE WE HAVE ENVISAGED WORKING GROUPS WHICH COULD PREPARE A CONFERENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE 29 COUNTRIES. THUS WE HAVE BEFORE US, PROBABLY, WEEKS OF WORK, MONTHS OF WORK, AND I BELIEVE

WE MUST NOT LOSE TOO MUCH TIME, AT LEAST I HOPE WE
WON'T LOSE ANY."

5. ON A RELATED MATTER, THE FRENCH MINISTER SAID THAT
THE ALGERIAN PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF
THE UNGA TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEM OF RAW MATERIAL "COMES
AT THE RIGHT TIME."

6. MR. JOBERT UNDERLINED THAT "THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS
OF APPROACHING THE ENERGY PROBLEM, ON THE BASIS OF
PRICE OR IN A BROADER PERSPECTIVE: IN RELATION TO OTHER
RAW MATERIALS, IN RELATION TO FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, IN
RELATION TO PROBLEMS OF SUPPLY. THUS WE ARE GOING
TO NEW YORK WITH AN OPEN MIND." END UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMENT: SENIOR QUAI OFFICIALS TOLD US MARCH 21 THAT
JOBERT INTENDED TO MAKE A VERY STRONG STATEMENT
EMPHASIZING THE NECESSITY FOR THE ARABS TO TREAT ALL
EC MEMBERS ALIKE AND THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS "HIGH TIME"
TO MAKE THE POINT FORCEFULLY TO THE ARAB WORLD.
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